

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SCEM-02 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08

NIC-01 DRC-01 /177 W

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P R 021450Z NOV 73

FM AMEMASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4218

INFO AMEMBAYSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 7417

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KE, IS

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON KENYA'S BREAK WITH ISRAEL

REF: NAIROBI 7376

1. ACCORDING TO MOFA UNDER SECRETARY KIILU (UN/AMERICAS), GOK DECISION TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL TAKEN ON MORNING NOV. 1, WHEN ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER KIBAKI, ASSISANT MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS NABWERA, DEPUTY SECRETARY JENEBY AND PROTOCOL CHIEF GACHUKIA FLEW TO MOMBASA TO PRESENT CASE FOR BREAK TO PRESIDENT KENYATTA, WHO WAS THERE ON WORKING HOLIDAY. FOREIGN OFFICE ARGUED FOR BREAK ON GROUNDS OF KENYA'S GROWING ISOLATION WITHIN OAU, CONCERN THUT LOSS OF ARAB GOODWILL COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT KENYA'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS SOMALIA'S IRREDENTIST CLAIMS, AND FEAR THAT KENYA'S OIL SUPPLIES MIGHT BE AFFECTED.

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2. COMMENT: KIILU DID ADMIT THAT NONE OF KENYA'S ARAB SUPPLIERS HAD EXPLICITLY THREATENED TO CUT OFF KENYA'S OIL. AMERICAN OIL SOURCES HAVE TOLD EMBASSY THAT MARKET FACTORS ARE MORE LIKELY TO AFFECT KENYAN OIL SUPPLIES THAN DECISION TO BREAK OR NOT TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, PARTICULARLY AS MOST OF KENYA'S CRUDE COMES FROM IRAN. END COMMENT.

3. KIILU STRESSED THAT GOK'S MOVE WAS NOT ANTI-ISRAEL. HE NOTED THAT FON MIN MUNGA, AT HIS NOV. 1 AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM UNGA, HAD INCLUDED AS FACTOR IMPORTANT TO MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION ASSURANCE THAT ALL NATIONS IN AREA COULD EXIST. OTHER FACTORS WERE ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS AND PRESENCE OF UN OBSERVERS.

4. EMBASSY NOTES THAT VOICE OF KENYA, IN ITS BROADCASTS TODAY, IS NOW REFERRING TO GOK'S ACTION AS QTE SUSPENSION UNQTE RATHER THAN QTE BREAK UNQTE, RAISING POSSIBILITY THAT ISRAELI REPRESENTATION MAY CONTINUE IN SOME FORM.
LINDSTROM

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